

THE

DECEMBER 30/31, 2023

# PEW BUDDY

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (B)

"Now, Master,  
you may let  
your servant  
go in peace.."  
~Luke 2:29

### St. Margaret Church & Parish Office

30300 Catholic Hall Road | Hammond | LA 70403  
P.O. Box 100 | Albany | LA 70711

### St. Thomas the Apostle Chapel

31718 Main Street | Springfield | LA 70462

#### OFFICE HOURS

We are open Tuesday  
through Friday from  
8:00AM until 3:00PM,  
but closed for lunch from  
12:00PM until 1:00PM!

**We are closed on Monday!**



#### CONTACT US

**By Phone:**  
225.567.3573

**By Email:**  
stmargaret@diobr.org

**Website:**  
stmargaretstthomas.com



# PONDERINGS OF THE PEDAL-N-PADRE

*By Father Paul Gros*

Dear family in Christ,

Peace in the Lord Jesus Christ as we continue the Christmas celebration on this Feast of the Holy Family. As the rest of the world has ended the Christmas season, we Catholics continue to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! The season of Christmas will continue all the way to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is on Monday, January 7th, 2024. I pray that the Holy Spirit may conform our hearts, not to the world's calendar, but to the church's liturgical calendar.

Today on this Feast of the Holy Family, the church reminds us in the first and second readings the promises God made to Abraham our father in faith. In the letter to the Hebrews the author writes: ***"By faith he (Abraham) received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy."* (Heb 11:11)**. For those of you who took the great adventure Bible timeline last year, you should be familiar with the promise God made to Abraham. God promised that he would be the father of many nations and it was through his descendants that he would raise up the Christ.

In our first reading, from the book of Genesis chapter 15, God forms a covenant with Abraham to ratify this promise. This covenant, which is a kinship bond, God forms between Himself and Abraham and all his descendants. By doing so, God invites Abraham and his descendants to be a part of His family. Even though Abraham was well passed the normal age of having children, God was faithful to His promise and ***"it was that there came forth from one man himself as good as dead the sentence as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore."* (Heb 11:17)** We who are baptized and live by faith have become descendants of a New Covenant established by Jesus Christ and thus heirs to the promise which is the inheritance of the New Promise Land – the Kingdom of Heaven.

This fidelity of God is reflected beginning with the covenant he made with Abraham. On this Feast Day, as we reflect on the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – the understanding of "covenant" is especially important. I always tell my engaged couples that at the moment they exchange their vows (promises) at the altar, God forms a covenant between them, and a new family is established. This covenant they form together, through the sacrament of marriage, is supposed to participate and reflect in the New Covenant established between Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, and the Church, His Bride. Thus, the fidelity that God showed Abraham and the fidelity Jesus Christ shows us should be shown between husband and wife in the covenant of marriage. Mary and Joseph, though they were not in a sacramental marriage (the sacraments had not been established by then), showed this fidelity in a most perfect way because Jesus was at the very center of their relationship. Every married couple, though not perfect, should strive to intentionally invite Jesus to be at the center of their relationship day in and day out.

Pope St. John Paul II would always emphasize that society "passes through" the family first! So, if we want to change society for the good, we must focus on renewing the family. Thus, on this Feast of the Holy Family I entrust every family at St. Margaret and St. Thomas to the Holy Family!!!

Have a Wonderful Day!!

# EVENTS AROUND THE PARISH

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day is also a celebration in the Church of Mary, Mother of God. There will be two Masses celebrated for the feast – one on **Sunday, December 31, 2023** at **6:00PM** at St. Margaret and one on **Monday, January 1, 2024** at **10:00AM** at St. Margaret. Come give thanks to God for blessing us with another year while honoring our Blessed Mother, asking her intercession and protection and the grace of a healthy and happy 2024! Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

## ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN OR DEACON CANDIDATE

The Vocations Committee of St. Margaret has done a great job in establishing a culture of vocations in our parish. Continue to help us promote more vocations by participating in our “Adopt-A-Seminarian” campaign. There are still Deacon Candidate ornaments on the tree for you to take and write them a note; perhaps give him a gift and do it all while praying for him and that more people listen to His call to serve the Church! Remember you can “adopt” this seminarian or deacon candidate for the entire year!

## NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION SIGN UP

As part of this year of Eucharistic Revival, St. Margaret will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 6:00PM Vigil Mass on **Sunday, December 31, 2023** until midnight. Please consider ending 2023 and/or beginning 2024 with our dear Lord! The sign-up sheets can be found at both entrances to St. Margaret Church. If all spots are covered for a particular hour, you are still more than welcome to come! For the safety of our adorers, we do require more than one person in the church throughout the night, and Jesus is never to be left alone when He is exposed in the monstrance.

## CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In observance of the New Year holiday, and to give our staff some well-deserved rest, the parish office will be closed **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**. Please tend to any business that you might have before or after these days. We hope that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

In observance of the New Year holiday, there will be no PSR classes on **December 31, 2023**. Classes will resume on **January 7, 2024**. Mondays with Mary Ministry will not be meeting for our weekly rosary on **Monday, January 1, 2024**. Enjoy the break! Return refreshed! We wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!



# GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

---

## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Our next session of Family Faith Formation will be on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at **11:15AM**. The topic presented by Rachael Johnson will be “Dealing with Depression and Loneliness in Youth.” This session will be in the St. Margaret Room in the Hall of Saints. At least one parent per student is required to attend each session, though it is preferable that both parents attend these sessions. Indeed, all parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate to learn more about their faith!

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Tax time is right around the corner! If you are a registered parishioner and need a statement of your annual contributions to our Church community for 2023, please call Lucie Hanewinkel at extension 103 **after January 1, 2024** and leave her a message with your name and specific request. Thank you for your generosity to our parish all throughout the year! Parishioners really make St. Margaret a dynamic parish!

## KC PULLED PORK DINNER

The KC Fourth Degree Assembly #2801, assisted by the Ladies Auxiliary and KC Council, are sponsoring a pulled pork fundraiser meal on **Thursday, January 11, 2024** from **11:00AM** until **12:30PM** in the parish hall. The meal includes a large pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, corn on the cob and dessert for **\$11**. Tickets will be sold outside of all Masses the weekend of **January 6/7, 2024**. Proceeds from these sales benefit the KC Fourth Degree charitable activities including supporting and assisting our two churches, its ministries and our community.

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Please give a warm welcome to these newly registered St. Margaret parishioners and their families: **Denise & Kevin Caldwell, and Todd, Angela, Alexandra & Amanda Babin**. Thank you for becoming members of the St. Margaret community. Remember to “officially” register if you have not done so; registration forms are available on our website. Family members are also asked to register when they turn 18 years of age. Come grow with us on our journey toward the truth which is God’s love!

## FLU SEASON IS HERE!

As colder weather approaches, the number of flu cases increase. If you are not feeling well, please stay home to ensure the safety of others!

---

# SING TO THE LORD, SING PRAISE

---

## YUMMY FOR YOUR TUMMY

Come pass a good time and bring your gumbo, jambalaya, etouffee, sauce picante, beignets—all the wonderful Louisiana delicacies. The theme of our next “Yummy for Your Tummy” is “The Taste of Louisiana” and will be held in the parish hall on **Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 5:00PM**. Come join us for good food and grow in community while getting to know your fellow parishioners!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Join Bishop Michael Duca to celebrate couples married for 25, 50, or 65 years or more on **Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00PM** at Most Blessed Sacrament in Baton Rouge. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the Reception afterward in the MBS Parish Hall. Would you like to register as a participant so that our diocese can celebrate your important anniversary? Contact Tammy in the parish office by **Thursday, February 1, 2024** to register!



*St. Margaret Catholic Church*  
*Sponsored*  
**Married Couples Retreat**

**May 18 - 19, 2024**

**Attention Married Couples:  
Would you like to spend quality time  
enriching your marriage?**

Then join us on our parish sponsored  
married couples retreat at the beautiful  
St Joseph Abbey's Retreat Center!

*Growing Together in Faith & Love*



**Faith and Marriage**  
an Apostolate of the Willwoods Community

**Register @ [FaithandMarriage.org](https://FaithandMarriage.org)**

## FEED OUR YOUTH

Use the QR code here to  
access the sign-up  
genius to feed the youth  
on Wednesday nights!



## STEWARDSHIP THIS WEEK

Weekend of December 23/24/25, 2023  
**Regular & Christmas Collections**

**\$21,457.50**

The **Parish Debt Reduction**  
**Second Collection** totaled:

**\$3,509.00**

The Second Collection next weekend  
will be for the  
**Building & Maintenance Fund.**

Thank you for your kindness and  
generosity to our ministries!

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Margaret is given in memory of  
**Eric Navarre** by George & Kim Navarre.

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### Saturday, December 30, 2023, 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Philip Brabham, Karen Chemay, Shelly Cyrus, Al & Jane Faucheux,  
Peter "Larry" Fos, Jr., Homer Gaspard, Fred Gauthier, Ricky Genre,  
Dorothy Reese Jones, Mary, Joe L. & William Juhasz, Carlos Kepke,  
Francis Kronlage, Vernon & Dorothy Landry, Philip & Irene Leon, Ray Louviere,  
Adam Mocsary, George & Josie Mocsary, George Navarre, Patty Neihaus,  
Sue Novak, Dr. William T. O'Brien, III, June Koles Olah, Sal Pellittieri, Sr.,  
Lynette Pfiffner, Peter J. & Elizabeth Pfiffner, Frances Reine, Anne Sherman  
and Glen Wales

### Sunday, December 31, 2023, 8:00AM Mass

Jerry Adamcewicz, Adrian, Bud & Joan Bailey, Adam Cyrier, Lloyd Dominguez,  
Pauline Frisbie, Clarence & Faye Landeche, John LaGrange, Charlie Martin,  
Ethel Prokop, Samera St. Claire and Charles & Marie Stumpf

### Sunday, December 31, 2023, 10:00AM Mass

*The Missa Pro Populo* (The Mass for all the Parishioners)

Sunday, December 31, 2023, 6:00PM Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Stephanie V. Walton

Monday, January 1, 2024, 10:00AM Mass, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Deceased Members of the Martin Family

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Christmas Weekday)  
George & Eric Navarre

Thursday, January 4, 2024 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)  
Lynette Pfiffner

Friday, January 5, 2024, 7:00AM Mass (Memorial of St. John Neumann)  
George Navarre

# PAROCHIAL DASHBOARD

---

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament is offered weekly at 4:00PM on Thursday and on Saturday at 3:00PM at St. Margaret Church or by acceptable scheduled appointment with a priest.

### MARRIAGE

Interested parties should contact the parish office at least six (6) months prior to their desired date and must complete an acceptable Marriage Preparation Program.

### BAPTISM

Contact the parish office for preliminary information and to schedule a home visit from the Baptism Prep Team.

### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Visits to the hospitalized and infirm are made regularly. Contact the office for a priest or deacon for home or hospital visits.

### FUNERALS

Call the parish office during normal hours for scheduling. After hours, please leave a message on the emergency line at extension 106.

## OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil-4:00PM - St. Margaret Church  
Sunday-8:00AM - St. Thomas Chapel  
10:00AM & 5:30PM - St. Margaret Church

### Daily Masses

No Monday Mass  
Tuesday through Friday-7:00AM  
St. Margaret Church

### Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday-7:30AM-8:00PM  
Concluding with Benediction  
St. Margaret Church

## CLERGY & STAFF

### PASTOR

Father Paul August Gros

### DEACONS

Deacon William "Byrd" Corbett  
Deacon Tim Messenger  
Deacon Randall Waguespack

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary E. Herbert  
(Pastor's Administrative Assistant)  
Tammy Resetar (Receptionist)  
Lucie Hanewinkel (Contributions Manager)  
Gill Scioneaux (Maintenance Supervisor)

### PASTORAL STAFF

Baleigh Olah Henderson  
(Religious Education &  
Communications Coordinator)  
Melissa F. Berghausen (Youth Minister)

## THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

*Feast of the Holy Family*  
**Gather Hymnal Number 1008**

### Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Your own issue shall be your heir.

### Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

### Luke 2:22-40

Jesus is presented in the Temple.

### Anticipating Next Week's Scriptures

*Epiphany of the Lord*  
*January 6/7, 2024*

### Isaiah 60:1-6

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

**Matthew 2:1-12**



# OUR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**KC Consecration to the Holy Family Program!**

**New Year's Eve!**

**No PSR Classes!**

6:00PM—**Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, St. Margaret Church

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

**Happy New Year!**

10:00AM—**Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, St. Margaret Church

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**Parish Office is Closed!**

**No 7:00AM Mass Today!**

7:00PM—**Knights of Columbus**, St. Margaret Room

7:00PM—**Ladies Auxiliary**, Goretti Room

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

7:30AM—**Eucharistic Adoration**, St. Margaret Church

8:30AM—**St. Matthew's Guild**, Cecilia Room

6:00PM—**Hungarian Language Class**, Seton Room

6:30PM—**Open Doors (OCIA/OCIC)**, Vianney Room

6:30PM—**High School Youth Group**, John Paul II Room

**Thursday, January 4, 2024**

4:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

5:00PM—**Thomas' Table Meeting**, Seton Room

**Friday, January 5, 2024**

**No Extraordinary Events Scheduled Today!**

**Saturday, January 6, 2024**

**KC 4th Degree Fundraiser Ticket Sales!**

**Building & Maintenance Fund Second Collection!**

3:00PM—**Confessions**, St. Margaret Church

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**New Year, New Schedule!** Calling all Junior High (5-8 grade) Youth! We will begin our much anticipated Jr. Youth Nights on Wednesdays from **5:00PM-6:30PM** and end each week with a meal shared with the High School Youth. Get ready for your kiddos to have some faith-filled fun! Contact Melissa Berghausen at the parish office or at [mberghausen@stmargaretstthomas.com](mailto:mberghausen@stmargaretstthomas.com).

